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William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Mr. Hubbard:

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated or genetically engineered food. Any foods containing ingredients that have been genetically engineered or treated by irradiation should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food. In the case of irradiated foods, the statement should be accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

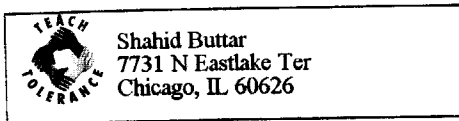
Like other labels required by federal law, food labels must be truthful and not misleading. Proposals to use euphemistic phrases like "cold pasteurization" are inappropriate because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling. The terms "genetically altered" or "treated with radiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process. The radura symbol, without written disclosure, is not adequate.

Consumers have a right to know how their food has been processed. Your agency is specifically responsible for safeguarding that right. Please ensure that labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Sincerely,



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